Removal of inter-State barriers for movement of agricultural products

1415. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to put an end to all inter-State barriers in movement of agricultural products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) 'Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2002, has already been issued by Government under the Essential Commodities Act, *vide* notification dated 15.2.2002, with an amendment dated 16.6.2003, permitting any dealer to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, acquire, use or consume any quantity of wheat, paddy/rice, coarsegrains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils, pulses, gur, wheat products and hydrogenated vegetable oil or vanaspati without requiring any license or permit therefor.

Outbreak of Japanese encephalitis

1416. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dreaded Japanese brain fever encephalitis has spread and taken heavy toll in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) JE is a viral and an epidemic prone disease with seasonal and cyclic fluctuations. As per reports received from State health authorities, during the year 2007, up to 16th August, 837 cases and 185 deaths due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) have been reported from 9 States in the country. The State-wise cases and deaths due to suspected JE for the last three years are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The steps taken by the Government of India for prevention and control of JE are as under:

- Early diagnosis and proper management of AES cases to reduce case fatality through strengthening of diagnostic and clinical management of JE cases, and curative services at PHCs/CHCs and District Hospitals.
- Training of PHC Medical Officer, Clinicians and nurses for early diagnosis and case management of JE.